December 14, 1993
Attribute to:

Katherine Pease,
President

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In their infinite wisdom the Founding Fathers established a Constitution that is difficult to change. They intended the Constitution to resist tampering that results from the "emotion of the moment" that often seizes the general electorate. There are those who would dwell on the proposition that when the courts overturn a popularly passed initiative they are acting against the will of the majority. These people fail to realize that this is the strength of our country. The majority may not infringe on the fundamental rights of those in the minority.

Historically, the "will of the majority" argument was used heavily by those who would deny equal rights and the necessity of integrating our society in the fifties. Governor Faubus of Arkansas was determined by a Gallup Poll in 1958 as being one of the ten most popular men in America solely based on his resistance to court orders and his championing of these arguments. In the same year, as a result of the sending of troops to Little Rock, another Gallup Poll determined that over 60% of Americans would eliminate and drastically change the Bill of Rights in order to prevent integration.

Today, GROUND ZERO is pleased to announce that Judge Bayless took a definitive stand against discrimination and bigotry and enforced the tenets of equal protection under the law declaring Colorado's Amendment 2 as having no rational basis and as unconstitutional. While Ground Zero has not had the opportunity to read and study the decision, we are pleased with the decision as it is generally understood by us.

Those, however, who believe that this decision returns the situation to what it was when the supporters of Amendment 2 introduced it, are sorely mistaken. First, this is but one step in what will probably be a long and expensive court battle. It is estimated that it will cost the state as much as one million dollars to take the case to the Supreme Court. Additionally, Colorado for Family Values has already announced that they have three new initiatives in the works from which to choose should the decision go against them.

Beyond this, however, is the fact that it will take years to mend the rift in society and to correct the stereotype of myths and lies that Colorado for Family Values has caused in offering and winning this initiative. Ground Zero does not doubt that there are many good people who have been convinced that Amendment 2 is the work of the Lord and who believe that Gays and Lesbians are a menace to society. We know, also, that many more are guided by bigotry and prejudices that rear their ugly heads often whenever the rights of individuals different from themselves are in question.

Both of the above are mislead and encouraged by the lies, myths, hate and intolerance fed to them by their leaders; leaders motivated not, as they would lead you to believe, by some higher religious reason but, rather, by lust for wealth and a hunger for power. These "leaders" view the issues they mount simply as vehicles to achieve their ultimate goals. This agenda

is that which must be identified and resisted. It is an agenda that threatens more than just the rights of Gays and Lesbians; it would destroy the lines of separation between church and state and our democratic form of government.

Gays and Lesbians do not seek and have no intentions of seeking the special protections that the Radical Right led the public to believe were sought, ie. the remedies of "affirmative action'" etc. They seek only equal protection. This will not come until such "equality" is guaranteed by inclusion in a state Civil Rights Act or by inclusion in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This protection is necessary to ensure the establishment of basic civil rights that all Americans are guaranteed. Such civil rights protection is wholy separate from the so called "special rights" that CFV preaches about. This protection grants basic human rights, not special rights.

Today GROUND ZERO is also pleased to announce that we are joining with the vast major of other gay and lesbian organizations around the state of Colorado to call an end to the national boycott of Colorado. The boycott was initiated out of a need to send a message to the state of Colorado and the country that discrimination in any form is unacceptable. This message has been conveyed very successfully and the effects of the boycott have been unmeasurably productive. Now it is time to let Colorado and the rest of the Country also know that economic sanctions are no longer necessary as Amendment 2, for the time being, is no longer a threat. We are grateful to the many individuals, organizations and companies who went out of their way to take a stand against discrimination and who heeded the call for a national boycott.

However, GROUND ZERO and other Colorado organizations are calling for the termination of the boycott as a result of our understanding that it is time to move forward and, instead of concentrating on combatting Amendment 2 itself, we belive it is time to move forward proactively to combat the attitudes and thinking that led to Amendment 2's passage in November of 1992. A campaign of lies and misinformation was waged against gay and lesbian Americans during the Amendment 2 campaign -- the effects of these misleading stereotypes are damaging and are still inciting discrimination and outright violence against gay and lesbian people. The Colorado gay and lesbian community is committed to doing positive outreach and ecuation regarding these issues. Education, and not the boycott, will be GROUND ZERO's focus in 1994.

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Ground Zero is a human rights advocacy organization with primary concerns in issues affecting the Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Communities. Ground Zero is a 501 (c) (3) Corporation that seeks to achieve its goals through education, community outreach and coalition.

SPECIAL NOTE:

GROUND ZERO WILL PARTICIPATE IN A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE OTHER GAY AND LESBIAN GROUPS AND ORGANIZATION IN COLORADO AT 2PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 1994 IN THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING 3RD FLOOR PRESS ROOM. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS WILL BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

SPECIAL NOTE: THERE WILL BE A CELEBRATION AT ACACIA PARK AT 6:00 THIS EVENING, TUES. DEC. 14.